

DISCOURTEOUS BRITONS.

The Result of a Breach of Etiquette by English Officers.

An International Episode Which Has Come to Light Notwithstanding the Jealous Guard on State Secrets.

Diplomats are generally supposed to be close-mouthed and mysterious, and our own state department is wedded more or less to the canons of the craft and possesses the virtues of silence. Remarks the New York Times. Still in some unknown way state secrets will crop out at times, and this the story of an international episode which has come to light which is worth the telling.

Some time ago, eighteen months ago, the ship *Pythias*, a north Atlantic mail steamer, came into New York harbor. After the mail had been delivered, the ship was cleared for the coast.

On the 10th of August, a group of British officers, gray-haired, went on board the *Pythias* to call upon her captain and officers. They were courteously received, and with high and polite politeness of their British conduct, returned to their post at Governor's island.

The next day passed, and the next, and still another, and there was no sign of the appearance of a British delegation to return to the ship. Finally the *Pythias* sailed away, and the call was unreturned.

It should be understood that calls of this character are official, and it is considered a part of the duty of every United States naval officer to do his share toward returning them.

Viewed in this light, the action of the Britishers was discourteous and rude in the extreme, and the Americans determined to resent it. A report of the circumstances was drawn up and duly signed by the officers concerned. It was presented to the general then in command at Governor's island, and was by him sent to the war department. Thence it went with accumulated evidence affixed to the secretary of state, and was by him forwarded to the British minister here and then to the admiralty at London.

The naval lords were astonished, and they arose and set down very hard upon the captain of the *Pythias*, and all the way back through the lines of the tape that is red to the British minister at Washington, to the departments of state and war, and so on to the indignant officers at Governor's island they sent a message of apology for the rudeness of their officers and promise of reparation.

The *Pythias* was by this time far away and not available; so down the coast from Halifax came another of her majesty's ships, the *Tourmaline*. She entered New York and without delay a delegation of her officers appeared at Governor's island, apologized for the rudeness of their comrades, and returned the call. What made the discourtesy of the *Pythias* officers more marked is a fact not generally known—that confidential instructions were issued by the admiralty somewhere about 1884 enjoining upon all British naval officers that they should be particularly careful in all their relations with Americans, and especially polite to United States naval officers.

EXECUTIONS IN CHINA.

Decapitated by a Very Slow Process—

For the minor offenses the punishment in China is beating on the mouth with a bamboo, said a traveler who lately returned from the flowery kingdom to a St. Louis Globe-Democrat man. "It is terrible to see the mouths of women as well as the ears laid on, and of men too. When sent to jail they must supply their own food and that of the jailer or they are allowed to starve. If they have not sufficient blankets they are allowed to freeze to death. There are different methods of execution. One is what would correspond with our hanging, but it is different. The victim is put against a post and a rope is thrown around his neck. Then it is pulled till the breath of life departs. Another form of execution is that of cutting to pieces by inches, which is done when the sentence of death is for the murder of a father or mother or some other near relative. First one ear is taken off, then the other, next the tongue is taken out, and so on. A third is death by starvation. I have seen a man engaged in the public streets, and allowed to end his life by this method, not being permitted to touch either water or food. Sometimes a small boy will bring him a little opium, which helps to lessen the suffering and brings about a more speedy death. The most common form is talking off the head by the sword, and the extraordinary nerve of these Chinese is shown in this more than any other. I have seen two men beheaded, one placed before the other. It took three strokes of the sword to kill the first, and while the operation was going on the second knelt down with his neck outstretched waiting his turn. Thinking that the process was slow he turned to the executioner and asked if he were going to be much longer with the first. Then, when the executioner came to him, he stretched out his neck again and waited for the blow, which completely severed his head from his body."

One of Nature's Pranks.

A monster three-legged steer was lately discovered during a round-up on the headwaters of Cheyenne river in Wyoming. The animal is seven years old, will weigh close on two thousand pounds, has horns that will measure six feet from tip to tip and has only three legs. The hind legs are perfect, but in front there is only one leg, located in the center of the body on the part of the body between where the front limbs are on an ordinary steer and is about the size of two ordinary legs. The steer is wild and when discovered took the lead of a small herd of mavericks and skipped out for a hiding place. The herd was rounded up and branded and a man left in charge of them.

DOGS TURNED WILD.

A Pack of Hounds Which Have Gone Back to Savagery.

For some time there have been reports of a strange band of animals which was depredating on the farmers in the northwestern part of Kansas. It was supposed that it was a new kind of wolf, but as the animals were very wild and were only seen at long intervals, no description could be had of them. It has developed, however, that instead of being wolves it is a pack of wild hounds. They have evidently at some time been left by man and have returned to a savage state. A man named Withers who had lost a colt and was searching for it had occasion to camp out in that part of the country where there were no settlers and while in camp the band of wild animals surrounded his place and raised such a noise that he shot and killed one of them.

The rest of the band ran off and he brought the dead animal into camp to save its skin. He was much surprised the next morning to find that he had a dead dog instead of a dead wolf. The dog was evidently a full-blooded foxhound. Withers thought that this might give a clue to the strange noises produced by the animals, and concluded to stay and investigate. He stayed around there all next day, and at night was again visited by the animals. He scared them off and noticed the direction they took, and next morning followed their trail. He traced them to a rocky hill, and there found that the animals made their home. He counted sixteen dogs which were hiding in the holes and clefts in the rocks, and thinks they have evidently sprung from dogs that have been deserted by their master.

CANADIAN INDEPENDENCE.

Popular Sentiment Favors Separation from Great Britain.

Many Americans will doubtless be surprised to learn, says Walter Blackburn Harte in an article on "Canadian Journalists and Journalism," in the New England Magazine, how many of the leading editors of Canada express themselves as being in favor of the adoption of a continental commercial policy and complete separation from Great Britain. Nothing could show more distinctly the drift of the popular sentiment in the dominion, for everybody is aware that newspapers only echo public opinion, and do not create it, nowadays.

A few years ago there was little tolerance in Canada for any man who dared to speak of the possibility of severing the sentimental tie binding the country to Great Britain. Now Canadian independence is one of the strongest of popular appeals.

The strong opposition of the conservative party to anything like free trade with the United States is based upon the contention that complete independence of Great Britain would result in an absorption of Canada by the great republic. The leading journalists of the dominion unite in urging the necessity of Canada belonging to this continent economically, and some of them are willing to admit to their constituents that if such identification of the commercial interests of the two countries involve political union, then political union is desirable. Such an undercurrent in the newspapers cannot be mistaken.

VICTORIA'S FAMILY.

Her Numerous Grandchildren—Forty of Them in All.

Queen Victoria has a large family. There are, besides her own children, forty grandchildren and a rapidly increasing progeny of great grandchildren. Here are the grandchildren up to date:

Emperor William, Princess Charlotte, Prince Albert William Henry, Prince Sigismund, Princess Victoria, Prince Waldemar, Princess Frederika, Princess Sophia and the Princess Margaret, all belonging to the Empress Frederick.

The prince of Wales has five children, Albert Victor, George, Louise Victoria, Victoria and Maud.

The Princess Alice has seven, namely, Victoria, Elizabeth, Irene, Ernest, Frederick, Alix and Mary.

The duke of Edinburgh is quite in the shade, with only five, namely, Alfred, Maria, Victoria, Alexandria and Beatrice.

The Princess Christian has achieved only five. They are named Christian, Albert John, Victoria, Louise Augusta and Harold.

The duke of Connaught has three, Margaret, Arthur and Victoria.

Alice Mary and Leopold are children of the duke of Albany.

The Princess Beatrice, dearly beloved of her mother, has four children, Albert Alexander, Leopold Arthur, Victoria and a new little prince that has just flapped its wings above Balmoral castle.



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